

Town of Tiverton



Economic Development Commission

343 Highland Road, Tiverton Rhode Island 02878

MEETING MINUTES

ORGANIZATION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE AND TIME: March 13, 2014 @ 6:00PM

LOCATION: TIVERTON TOWN HALL
343 HIGHLAND ROAD
TIVERTON, RI 02878

Chairman Scott Humphrey called the regular meeting of the Tiverton Economic Development Commission to order at 6:00 P.M. Other members present were: Susan Gill, Jonathan Cottrell and Leonard Schmidt. Members Jonathan Cottrell and Thomas Humphrey were absent.

Item # 1 Approval of February, 2014 minutes.

Ms. Gill made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. S. Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0-1. Ms. Gill and Mr. S. Humphrey voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Schmidt abstained since he was absent for the February meeting.

Item #2 Town meetings update:

Harbor Commission, Recreation Commission & Town Council / Susan Gill: Ms. Gill stated that the Harbor Master had resigned and that an interim Harbor Master would be appointed by the Town Council. The Town would advertise for a permanent replacement. Ms. Gill noted other topics of discussion, including the boat ramp, which was still considered to be too narrow. Also discussed was the issue of aquaculture development and the need for a town policy. Discussion ensued regarding potential conflicts with recreational water users.

Ms. Gill stated that she had also attended the Recreation Commission meeting. The budget had been reviewed. Field maintenance was discussed, and the town was currently without maintenance workers.

Ms. Gill stated that the new Town Administrator had been introduced at a recent Town Council meeting. She also noted that the final Town Council budget was submitted, which represented a 1.6% increase. A discussion was held regarding the duties of the Street Committee. Also, a speaker was present to discuss the Southcoast Railway Project (commuter rail to Fall River). A public meeting was scheduled for April 3 in Fall River for further discussion of the topic. A brief discussion ensued regarding freight rail.

Planning Board / Len Schmidt: Mr. Schmidt stated that he had not attended any meetings.

Wastewater Management / Jon Cottrell: Mr. Cottrell was not present

Zoning Board / Thomas Humphrey: Mr. T. Humphrey was not present

Four Corners Merchant Group / Susan Gill: Ms. Gill stated that there was a meeting being held concurrent to the EDC meeting regarding the potential for Historic District zoning in the area of Four Corners. A meeting of the Historic Preservation Advisory Board was scheduled for next Wednesday. A brief discussion ensued.

Item #3 Web site update: Susan Gill

Ms. Gill stated that she had met with Ms. Michaud regarding website administration and that she would meet next with Mr. Schmidt regarding content. She noted that she had submitted another application to the Roger Williams Community Partnership Center for assistance with the website.

Item #4 Tiverton Business Forum next steps / ALL

Mr. S. Humphrey noted that the business forum had created interest in developing a Tiverton Business Association. [Four Corners Merchant Group President] Kristin Silveira has offered to lead the creation of the TBA. Mr. S. Humphrey had forwarded information regarding the Portsmouth Business Association for reference. It was decided that the TBA should be independent from the government structure, but that the EDC would provide support as needed.

Mr. S. Humphrey stated that he had met with new Town Administrator Matthew Wojcik to review ongoing work, including the TBA. Mr. S. Humphrey stated that he was looking forward to working with Mr. Wojcik on economic development topics.

Mr. Schmidt inquired about the next steps for the TBA, noting that a nucleus group of participants was necessary. Mr. S. Humphrey stated that an Executive Committee would be formed to guide the process. Ms. Gill suggested that this group should determine the goals of the TBA.

At this time (6:30 PM) Kristin Silveira arrived at the meeting to discuss the TBA. Mr. S. Humphrey noted that the group would likely need to file as a non-profit. Mr. Schmidt noted that a mission statement would be needed. Mr. S. Humphrey stated that they could reach out to the Newport County Chamber of Commerce for assistance. He suggested that perhaps the TBA could tie in with the Newport County Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Silveira noted that the Bristol Merchants Association was very well organized, and that she would be attending one of their meetings.

Mr. S. Humphrey stated that he would like to add an item to the agenda regarding the EDC's mission statement. Mr. Schmidt made a motion to add an item to the agenda. Ms. Gill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gill, Mr. Schmidt and Mr. S. Humphrey voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. S. Humphrey stated that the only change was to change the reference to the RIEDC to the RI Commerce Corporation. Ms. Gill made a motion to that effect. Mr. Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gill, Mr. Schmidt and Mr. S. Humphrey voted in favor of the motion.

Miscellaneous discuss ensued:

- Mr. S. Humphrey stated that the potential to list available commercial properties or sites on the EDC website should be revisited at a future meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the potential for a state level database. Mr. Schmidt stated that he would discuss the availability of data with Tax Assessor David Robert.
- Audience member Barbara Pelletier noted that a statewide ban on plastic bags was being proposed through legislation. A brief discussion ensued, including discussion of the existing Barrington ban.

Item #5 Next Meeting Schedule, Agenda and Adjournment

The next meeting would be held on April 10, 2014. Mr. Schmidt made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Gill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gill, Mr. S. Humphrey and Mr. Schmidt voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Submitted by: Kate Michaud Approval Date: April 10, 2014